RULES
AND
CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE
Maiden-Hoſpital

Founded by the

Crafts-men of *Edinburgh* and *Mary Erskine.*

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Preface.

THE infinite wiſe Creator and ſupreme Ruler of the World, hath, for holy and excellent Ends, thought fit to make a diſcernible Difference in the Stations and Cicumſtances of the Children of Men, while they are in a State of Trial in this lower World. Higher and ſubordinate Powers are ordained of him; Magiſtracy is his Ordinance, inſtituted by him, that there might be a regular Diſpoſal of a beautiful Fabrick of human Societies; And therefore it may be juſtly called, 1 Peter ii. 13. An Ordinance of Man, *a human Creature or Structure. The glorious Goſpel of our Redeemer doth not deſtroy, but firmly eſtabliſh this divine Conſtitution of Superiority and Inferiority, even amongſt thoſe that are the adopted Sons*

of

of his Father, and joint Heirs with himſelf of the ſame heavenly Kingdom. The Words of the Apoſtle, 1 Tim. *Chap.* 6. ver. 1, 2. *are a plain Proof of this,* Let as many Servants as are under the Yoke, count their own Maſters worthy of all Honour; that the Name of God and his Doctrine be not blaſphemed. And they that have believing Maſters, let them not deſpiſe them, becauſe they are Brethren, but rather do them Service, becauſe they are faithful and beloved Partakers of the Benefit. *And as the Sovereign Lord hath, for the Good of Mankind, appointed that there ſhould be Rulers and Subjects, Governors and thoſe that are governed; ſo it hath pleaſed him, in the unſearchable Wiſdom of his Providence, to make ſuch a Diſtribution of the good Things of this Life, as ſome ſhould have a larger, ſome a leſſer Share of them, and others ſhould be left to be provided for*

by

by the compaſſionate Care of their richer fellow rational Creatures; ſo that this Variety that is in the Circumſtances of Men as to the Comforts of this Earth, is, in ſpotleſs Righteouſneſs, ordered by unerring Wiſdom, which is admired and exalted in a high Strain of Praiſe by the great and religious King David, 1 Chron. xxix. 10, 11, 12. *And it is ſung by Holy* Hannah *to the Praiſe of the wiſe Management of the great God,* 1 Sam. ii. 7. The Lord maketh Poor and maketh rich, he bringeth low, and lifteth up. *The righteous Lord, who is pleaſed to order thus the Affairs of Men, as to this Life, hath in his Goodneſs given many excellent Directions for our Conduct in the Management of ourſelves, with a Reſpect to one another in our ſeveral Stations and Circumſtances in this World; and it is a very comprehenſive one which we have,* 1 Pet. iii. 8, 9. Finally, be all of one Mind, be unanimouſly

unanimouſly concerned *for the Glory of your God and Redeemer, in a Conformity to the Principles of true Religion,* having Compaſſion one of another: Love as Brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. *No Man, how rich and great ſoever he be, can juſtly pretend to have an abſolute Power to diſpoſe of what he poſſeſſeth, according to his mere Will and Pleaſure; he is to have an awful Regard to the Rules preſcribed to him by the moſt high God the Poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, who will vindicate the Honour of his own Laws, and be avenged upon the obſtinate and proud Contemners thereof. It is his Royal Law,* That every Man ſhould love his Neighbour as himſelf, *and the Sanction of it is of a frightful Import,* He ſhall have Judgment without Mercy, that hath ſhewed no Mercy, *Ja.* ii. 8, 13. *It is not left to thoſe that have not only the Neceſſaries, but the Conveniencies of Life, to be charitable or not, as they*

they pleaſe, to ſuch as are indigent. The Earth is the Lord's and the Fulneſs thereof. *He hath reſerved to himſelf the ſovereign Propriety of both, and parcels them out to the Children of Men, as ſeemeth good to him; but always with this Clauſe in their Leaſe, that out of their Store they ſhall, according to their Ability and Circumſtances, ſupply the Wants of the indigent, as they would not loſe their Right and Title to what they poſſeſs, and provoke their ſupreme Lord,* to curſe them in the City and in the Field, in their Basket and in their Store, in the Increaſe of their Kine and Flocks of their Sheep, and permit them to be only oppreſſed and cruſhed always *to ſuch a Degree* that they ſhall be mad, for the Sight of their Eyes which they ſhall ſee, *Deut.* xxviii. 16, 17, 18, 34. *I am obliged in Charity to be perſuaded, that the ſerious Conſideration of theſe Things hath influenced the Inhabitants of the honou-*

honourable City of Edinburgh, *both Merchants and Craftſmen, to give an exemplary Proof of their Concern for the Glory of God, for the Honour of the holy Religion which they profeſs, and for the publick Good of their City in particular, and the Land of their Nativity in general, both as to their religious and civil Intereſt, to do what was in their Power, for ſupplying what was defective as to charitable Foundations, for the Support, and the virtuous and chriſtian Education of female young ones; which otherways, when come to riper Age, might through Poverty and Want, become a Prey to Temptations to Wickedneſs, and be a Reproach to Chriſtianity, and a Scandal to their Nation, a Plague to Families and Societies, and bring the eternal Wrath of God upon themſelves. Such Charity as doth plainly tend to keep off heavy Judgments from City and Country, cannot*

not well be misplaced, as that which is bestowed upon those of a mature Age, may often be, through its being abused to the Encouragement of Idleness and Sloth.

The good, regular and advanced State that the Craftſ-men of this City, have, by their diligent Care and the Bounty of their ſeveral Incorporations, with the liberal Aſſiſtance of the worthy late Mary Erskine, have brought their pious Foundation of a Maiden Hoſpital to, cannot but have ſome Weight to prevail with compaſſionate Chriſtians, to give their helping Hand to ſuch a pious and uſeful Work.

I am ſenſible that there have been ſo many excellent Diſcourſes upon the Subject of Charity and Beneficence, that any Thing that I can pretend to ſay upon it, can only be a Repetition of what hath been ſaid to much better Purpoſe by many others; yet ſeeing it is not ſo

much through Ignorance of what Men ought to know, as by Want of Thought and Reflection with Reſpect to what they do know, that they are often guilty of an inexcuſable Neglect of many important Duties, which as Chriſtians they are obliged to perform; I ſhall only by way of Remembrance, ſtir up the Minds of thoſe, that have not caſt off all Regard to Religion, to ponder the Weight of the Arguments, by which it urgeth ſuch a compaſſionate Regard to our indigent Neighbours, as does go beyond a mere Saying, Be you warmed, be you filled. *The holy Scriptures teach us, that God himſelf is pleaſed to take the Poor under his peculiar Care and Protection,* Pſal. x. 14. The Poor committeth himſelf to thee, thou art the Helper of the Fatherleſs; *and Pſal.* lxviii. 5. He is a Father of the Fatherleſs, and a Judge of the Widow, in his holy Habitation; *We are told,*

Prov.

Prov. xvii. 5. That he that mocketh the Poor, reproacheth his Maker; *He robbeth him of the Honour of the Wiſdom of his Government. Shall we then have no Compaſſion upon thoſe, that are ſo much conſidered by the God of Heaven? This Almighty Creator hath, in his great Goodneſs, put ſuch Honour upon human Nature, that he hath preſcribed our being kind and beneficent to one another, as a Part of Worſhip paid to himſelf*, Jam. i. 27. Pure and undefiled Religion, *or his Worſhip*, is to viſit the Fatherleſs and the Widow. *Charity is not indeed an expiatory Sin-Offering; but it is a chriſtian Sacrifice, a Thank-offering well pleaſing to God*, Heb. xiii. 16. *It is a high Honour that the glorious God puts upon thoſe, who, by his Bleſſing upon their lawful Endeavours, have Plenty of the good Things of this Life, or, by his kind Providence, have an In-*

heritance

heritance conveyed to them from their Progenitors, that he ſubſtitutes them as Managers for them; leaving to their Care a Part of his World, and requiring them to act like himſelf, as his Repreſentatives; and as Compaſſion is his Delight, ſo he would have it theirs too. Is not this a great Dignity? And ſhall mortal Creatures ſo diſparage it, as to act in direct Oppoſition to the plain Deſign of it, by having little or no Regard to the Circumſtances of thoſe that are Objects of Pity and Commiſeration? How will they anſwer for it, when called to give an Account of their Stewardſhip? It is an unaccountable Folly, that any ſhould think, that they can never be ſecure againſt Poverty and Want, but by ſcraping together at any Rate Riches and Wealth, without any Concern to ſupport their ſtarving Neighbours. The righteous Governor of the World, hath, in his Providence,

given

given remarkable Proofs of his Indignation againſt this fooliſh Imagination and mad Practice, which he hath ſuffered many of theſe heaping and diſtruſtful Earth-worms to live and ſee their own Miſery; whereas it hath been found, that liberal Men have ſtood by liberal Things. Seeing then that the Diſtinction, as hath been ſaid, that is in the Circumſtances of the Children of Men, as to the Comforts of this Life, is an Ordinance of the Almighty Creator; Let us, by having Bowels of Compaſſion towards the diſtreſſed and indigent, teſtify the Honour and Regard we have to the ſacred Conſtitution of the Supreme Law-giver, and our Gratitude to our greateſt Benefactor; let us thus make it appear, that we give entire Credit to his Word, and that we have a full Confidence in the Wiſdom, Goodneſs and Faithfulneſs of his Government; let us imitate and encourage this Example of

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pious Charity, of which the following Paper gives us an Account; an Example that ought to be the more valued and regarded, becauſe it is given by thoſe, who generally do, even by a laborious Induſtry, make but a moderate Gain; and it muſt be allowed, that the Incorporations of the Craftſ-men of Edinburgh *have given a viſible Proof, in their ſo largely contributing to the charitable Foundation of a* Maiden Hoſpital, *that they are* careful to maintain good Works, *while they work with their Hands, that they may not only not be burthenſome to others, but may have to give to him that needeth; and that their laudable Practice, and the Conſideration of what is ſuggeſted in theſe Lines, may have ſome Weight to influence many to do Good, to be rich in good Works, and to give their chearful Aſſiſtance for the promoting of this*

and

and other such like great and religious Works of extensive Charity,

Is the earnest Prayer of,

Your faithful Well-wisher
in the Lord,

W. C.

Rules

RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS OF THE Maiden-Hoſpital,

Founded by the

Crafts-men of *Edinburgh* and *Mary Erskine*.

THE Free-men of the Incorporations of the Crafts-men of *Edinburgh*, taking to their ſerious Conſideration, that there were Funds ſettled and provided for the Education and Maintenance of the Male-

children of decayed Burgeſſes of the Burgh, and for the Female-children of decayed Merchants; but nothing for the Female-children of decayed Crafts-men of the ſaid Burgh: They, after ſeveral Meetings thereanent, did, about three Years ago, unanimouſly reſolve to have an Hoſpital for the Daughters and Grand-children of the Female Sex of decayed Crafts-men, who are not able to maintain themſelves, and for other poor Maidens, who ſhall be preſented by Perſons who ſhould contribute to ſo good and pious a Work. And upon the 3d of *May* 1704, they procured an Act from the Council of *Edinburgh*, approving of their ſo pious and charitable Reſolution; and declaring they would give all due Encouragement thereto. Upon which the Incorporations, by their ſeveral Contributions, having purchaſed and acquired ſome Houſes and Yards in *Edinburgh*, for ſo

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pious an Uſe, did cauſe fit and prepare one of theſe Houſes for an Hoſpital, and have already ſettled therein 23 Girls, with a Governeſs, and School-Miſtreſs and Servants: And have now procured an Act of Parliament, authorizing the Incorporations in carrying on ſo pious and laudable a Deſign, *&c.* whereof the Tenor follows; 'At *Edinburgh* the Twenty fifth Day of *March*, " One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeven Years, *Our ſovereign Lady*, with " Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates " of Parliament, conſidering that there " is a pious and laudable Deſign now " carrying on by the Incorporations of " the Crafts-men of *Edinburgh*, and " others who join with them, authorized by the Town Council of the " ſaid Burgh, by their Act, dated the " 3d Day of *May*, 1704 Years, for " founding and erecting an Hoſpital for " the Maintenance and Education of

" the Female-children and Grand-chil-
" dren of decayed Crafts-men, and o-
" thers to be preſented by Perſons who
" give Donations thereto, which may
" be of a general Advantage, and eſpe-
" cially to the City of *Edinburgh*;
" therefore her Majeſty, with Advice
" and Conſent foreſaid, do hereby al-
" low and authorize the ſaid Incorpo-
" rations of the Crafts-men of *Edin-*
" *burgh* and others joining, or who ſhall
" join with them, to meet as oft as
" Occaſion requires, and to make ſuch
" Rules and Conſtitutions for the car-
" rying on and ſupporting of the ſaid
" Hoſpital allennarly, as they ſhall find
" juſt and convenient; *As alſo*, to
" ſettle ſuch Funds, as well out of their
" publick Boxes belonging to their re-
" ſpective Adminiſtrations, as private
" Eſtates, as they ſhall think fit, and
" to receive Mortifications or Dona-
" tions, from any Perſon who ſhall be
pleaſed

" pleaſed to contribute thereto; the ſaid
" Rules and Acts to be made by them,
" being always conſiſtent with the Laws
" of the Kingdom, and with the Acts and
" Conſtitutions of the City of *Edin-*
" *burgh*; And *Statutes* and *Ordains* the
" ſaids Rules and Conſtitutions, to be
" made by them to be as valid and effec-
" tual to all Intents and Purpoſes, for
" the ordering and governing of the
" Hoſpital abovementioned, as if they
" were particularly expreſt and ſet
" down in this Act; *Whereanent*,
" Her Majeſty, with Advice and Con-
" ſent foreſaid, diſpenſes for ever:
" And *further*, Her Majeſty, with Ad-
" vice and Conſent foreſaid, *Ordains*
" and *Declares*, the foreſaid Hoſpital,
" when ſet up and ſettled in its Conſti-
" tutions, and Directors and Overſeers,
" to be a free Hoſpital, for the pious
" Uſe foreſaid; *With Power* to the
" ſaid Hoſpital, and its Overſeers and
Directors,

" Directors, not only to administrate
" the Funds and Rents appertaining
" thereto; but likewise to purchase
" and acquire Lands, Tenements and
" others, for the farther Good and Ad-
" vantage thereof; And for that End
" to make, grant and receive all Man-
" ner of Deeds and Writs necessary
" for that Effect; and to have a Seal,
" if they shall think needful, and with
" such Inscriptions as they shall appoint
" for the Confirmation of the saids
" Deeds; and generally to have all
" such Powers, Liberties and Immu-
" nities of a free Hospital, for pious
" Uses, as any other Hospital for the
" like Uses hath, or by the Law may
" have within this Kingdom. Extrac-
" ted forth of the Records of Parlia-
" ment, by me Sir *James Murray* of
" *Philiphaugh*, one of the Senators of
" the College of Justice, Clerk to the
" Parliament, and to Her Majesty's
Coun-

" Councils, Regiſters and Rolls. *Sic*
" *Subſcribitur* Ja. Murray, *Cls. Reg.*

After obtaining the foreſaid Act of Parliament, the forenamed pious and worthy *Mary Erskine*, Relict of *James Hair* Druggiſt, Burgeſs of *Edinburgh*, (who was the firſt who projected and deſtinated Funds for *Maiden Hoſpitals* in the City of *Edinburgh*,) gave and granted a great and conſiderable Donation to the Hoſpital; for which it is unanimouſly agreed, that ſhe ſhall be aſſumed unto the Title as a Founder of the Hoſpital, and that two of the Name of *Erskine* ſhall be for ever Governors thereof, to be named by the ſaid *Mary Erskine*, during her Life, (and who hath accordingly named Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange* one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, and Mr. *David Erskine* Advocate, for all their Life-times;) and after her Death, by the Repreſentative of the preſent Family

mily of *Mar*, under whatever Deſignation it may then happen to be; and that the ſaid *Mary Erskine*, during her Life, and after her Death the two Governors of her Name, ſhall have the Preſentation of all the Girls whom ſhe had Right to preſent, conform to her Donation; and that the eldeſt of the Governors of the ſaid Name, ſhall preſide in Abſence of the Conveener, and ſhall keep one of the three Keys of the Hoſpital's Charter-houſe, as the Right and Diſpoſition made and granted by the ſaid *Mary Erskine*, in Favours of the Hoſpital, at more Length bears.

In Purſuance of that Part of the Act of Parliament, anent the Rules and Conſtitutions, the Deacon Conveener, remanent Deacons of the ſeveral Incorporations of the Crafts-men of *Edinburgh*, Contributers, and the two Trades Counſellors and others joined with them, and the ſaid Lord *Grange* and Mr. *David*

vid Erskine, after ſeveral Meetings and ſerious Conſideration, *have unanimouſly* agreed and reſolved upon the Rules following, *viz.*

I.

The Freemen Crafts-men of *Edinburgh*, and the ſaid *Mary Erskine*, being the Founders of the Hoſpital, the ſame ſhall now and in all Time coming, in all Inſcriptions, Acts, Contracts, or other Writs, be named and called the *Maiden Hoſpital* founded by the Crafts-men of *Edinburgh*, and *Mary Erskine*. The Name and Title of the Hoſpital.

II.

The Deacons for the Time, of the ſeveral Incorporations, Contributers to this good Work, and the two Trades Counſellors, and two of the Name of The Governors, and their Election.

Erskine (nominated, as is hereafter declared) are perpetually to be Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital (*a*). And there ſhall be choſen, (in Manner as is hereafter appointed) yearly on the ſecond *Monday* of *October*, as many as with the ſaids Deacons, two Trades Counſellors, and two of the Name of *Erskine*, ſhall make up twenty and ſeven Perſons, and theſe Perſons elected are alſo to be Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, during one Year next enſuing their Election; and in caſe of the removing of any of theſe elected Governors by Death or otherwiſe, the other Governors for the Time ſhall, by Plurality of Votes, chooſe a Perſon to ſupply the Vacancy. The Conveener for the Time is to preſide in all Meetings, and in his Abſence, the eldeſt Governor of the Name of *Erskine* is to preſide; and

(*a*) *Vide Appendix.* N° 3.

and in Abſence of both, a Preſes is to be choſen by Vote.

III.

The Governors to be yearly elected, ſhall be choſen by the ſaids Deacons of the Incorporations, two Trades Counſellors, and two Governors of the Name of *Erskine*, and every Donator who gives 2000 Merks to the Hoſpital, ſhall, during his Life, and after his Death any he ſhall appoint by Write, have a Vote in electing theſe yearly added Governors; *As alſo*, the ſaids Donators ſhall have a Vote in any other Concern of the *Hoſpital*, at a General Meeting of the Governors, and they themſelves ſhall alſo be capable to be elected Governors.

The Perſons having Power to elect.

IV.

The preſent Deacons of the Incorporations, Contributers, and the two preſent

This Oath to be taken by the Governors.

ſent Trades Counſellors, and the Lord *Grange*, and Mr. *David Erskine* Advocate, named by the ſaid *Mary Erskine*, to be Governors during all the Days of their Lifetime, and theſe now joined with them (*a*); and none elſe are to have the full Adminiſtration and Government of the *Hoſpital*, and whole Eſtate thereof, until the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October*, which is to be the firſt annual Council-day of electing the new Governors, to be joined to the Deacons and Trades Counſellors, and two Governors of the Name of *Erskine*, who are to be perpetual Governors, as ſaid is; but none of the Governors are to have Vote or Intereſt in the Concerns of the *Hoſpital*, either for Rents or Election, or any other Thing, until they take the Oath following, which is to be adminiſtrate by

(a) *Vide Appendix.* N° 3.

by the Clerk, firſt to the Deacon Conveener or Preſes for the Time; and by the Deacon Conveener or Preſes, to all the reſt of the Governors. *I* A. B. *Do faithfully ſwear and promiſe before God, that to the beſt of my Knowledge and Power, I ſhall carry and demean my ſelf in all Matters which concern the Election of the Officers or Scholars, or any Thing elſe belonging to the* Maiden Hoſpital, *founded by the Crafts-men of* Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskine, *truly and honeſtly: And if I know any going about, at any Time to defraud or prejudge the ſaid pious Work, I ſhall obſtruct it to my Power, and reveal it to the Governors for the Time.* So help me GOD.

V.

The Meetings anent the Elections, or other Concerns of the *Hoſpital*, ſhall either be in the *Hoſpital*, or *Mag-* The Place of Meeting.

Magdalen Chapel, or ſome other convenient Place, to which the Conveener, for the Time, ſhall think fit to cauſe warn them.

VI.

The Election of the Treaſurer, and Oath to be taken by him.

(a) Upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, there ſhall be choſen by the then Deacons, and two Trades Counſellors, and two Governors of the Name of *Erſkine*, and the new Governors to be choſen and added to them that Day, by Plurality of Votes, a ſufficient and qualified Man to be Treaſurer to the ſaid *Hoſpital* for one Year, whoſe Office ſhall be to receive all the *Hoſpital*'s Rents, to keep all Stock and Money belonging to the *Hoſpital*, to pay Wages and Allowances due to the Officers and Scholars,

(a) *Vide Appendix*. N°. 1.

lars, or any other Thing belonging to the *Hospital*; to look diligently to the Reparations of the Buildings of the *Hospital*, to deliver weekly to the Mistress so much Money, as may provide the Dyet of the whole *Hospital* for that Week, and to take in an Account each Week, how the same is depursed, WITH POWER to him to controll or allow what Accompts relates to the *Hospital*, as he finds just; and the Treasurer, before he exerce in Presence of the Governors, shall solemnly swear the following Oath. *I* A. B. *elected Treasurer of the* Maiden Hospital *founded by the Craft's-men of* Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskine, *do swear and faithfully promise with my best Skill and Power, to discharge all that is required of me by the Statutes of the said* Hospital *truly and honestly.* So help me God. And Captain *John Wightman* Skinner, Burgess of *Edinburgh*,

burgh, being formerly choſen Treaſurer, and having given his Oath for faithful Adminiſtration, is to continue in that Station, until the firſt annual Election, being the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* next to come; and it is hereby declared and ordained, That a Treaſurer, ſerving the ſaid *Hoſpital* without Fee or Sallary, ſhall have a Vote, as other Governors: He being always a Benefactor, and his Donation recorded.

VII.

The Time of the Treaſurer's compting.

The Treaſurer may be continued two Years, or more, if the Governors ſhall think fit to elect him of new yearly; and he ſhall yearly make his Accompts of his whole yearly Intromiſſions, and give in the ſamen to the Auditors, the firſt *Monday* of *October* yearly, who ſhall be obliged to deliver in the ſaids Accounts with their Report

of

of the ſamen to the Governors, the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, being the annual Meeting: And the Governors of the *Hoſpital* are to finiſh and conclude their approving or diſproving of the ſame Accompts, before the Admiſſion of the new Governors for the Year enſuing; And at his Removal from his Office, he ſhall deliver up to the ſucceeding Treaſurer all Accompts and Papers, which belong any Way to his Office, or may give Inſight for diſcharging the ſame, which are to be kept in good Order, allowing always the Benefactors, who are alive for the Time, and after their Death, whom they ſhall appoint by Write, to be preſent, if they pleaſe, with the ſaid Auditors, in their auditing the ſame Accounts. If the Treaſurer ſhall die, or by any Neceſſity be removed, the Governors ſhall within eight Days of his Death, or Removal, proceed to the Election of a new one. VIII. Upon

VIII.

The Election of the Committee of nine, and *Quorums* of the Governors.

Upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, there ſhall be choſen by the Deacons of the Incorporations, who are Contributers, and the two Trades Counſellors for the Time, and the two Governors of the Name of *Erſkine*, and theſe to be added to them, who are the Governors for the enſuing Year, nine of themſelves, to be a Committe, for the more eaſy managing of the conſiderable Affairs and Concerns of the *Hoſpital*; and five of theſe nine to be a *Quorum*, and Auditors of the Treaſurer's, and all other Accompts belonging to the *Hoſpital*, and for taking in the Treaſurer's Accompts monthly, and preparing of the ſamen, that they may be the more readily audited and diſcharged at each Years End, upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday*

ay of *October* yearly. And the Treaſurer, with any five of theſe nine, are impowered to order and manage all the ſmaller Affairs of the *Hoſpital*, and to meet as oft, for that Effect, as they think fit; which nine, or their *Quorum*, are to choiſe their own Preſes at their Meetings; but as to the Matter of Election of the Governors, or anent the Rents of the *Hoſpital*, or the Government thereof, or any other great Concern of the ſame, all the Governors, that are in Town for the Time, ſhall be warned by the Officer of the *Hoſpital* to the Meetings thereanent; and what ſhall be concluded, by Plurality of Votes, ſhall ſtand in Force, there being always preſent at theſe Meetings, no leſs than fifteen of the Governors. It is declared, that the Governors for the Time, may be preſent at all Committees and *Sub*-committees, if they think fit, whether

warned or not, and ſpeak, adviſe, and vote therein.

IX.

The Election of Clerk.

Upon the Death, Demiſſion or Deprivation of the Clerk, at leaſt within twenty Days thereafter, there is to be choſen another Clerk to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, to continue, during Life and good Behaviour, who ſhall keep in good Order, and digeſt all the Evidents and other Papers belonging to the *Hoſpital*, and make and keep Books of a full and a particular Record thereof, and to attend the Meetings and from what Orders and Reſolutions are done therein, and take the Oath in the ſame Form, as is expreſt in the Oath of the Treaſurer, *mutatis mutandis*. And upon his Death or Removal, the Governors ſhall proceed within twenty Days to the Election of a new one; the Clerk is to have paid quarterly to

him

him by the the Treaſurer the Sum of ; and *William Brown* Writer in *Edinburgh* being formerly choſen Clerk, and given his his Oath for faithful Adminiſtration, is to continue in that Station during his Life and faithful Adminiſtration.

X.

The preſent Governors have already elected and ſettled an old Gentlewoman, named *Iſabella Grant* Relict of *Francis Forbes* Gentleman, who voluntarily offered her Service to ſo charitable a Work *gratis* (*a*): She is to continue in that Station, during her Life and good Behaviour, and after her Death or Removal, the Governors for the Time are within *forty* Days to ſupply her Place, by electing another fit and qualified Perſon for that

The Election and Powers of the Governeſs, and Oath to be taken by her.

(*a*) *Vide Appendix.* N° 4.

that Station. The ſaid *Iſabella Grant*, and theſe who ſucceed to that Office, are to take Care, that the Scholars and Servants be brought up in the Fear of God, and ſhall catechiſe and inſtruct the Scholars in the Principles of the Chriſtian reformed Religion and correct them for Faults, when Occaſion requires, and ſhall take in the weekly Accompts, and deliver the ſame to the Treaſurer, with her Opinion thereanent; they are to be unmarried Perſons, not under *forty* Years of Age, before their Admiſſion; they ſhall be obliged to take the Oath following. *I* A. B. *elected Miſtreſs and Governeſs of the* Maiden Hoſpital *founded by the Craftſ-men of* Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskine, *do ſwear and faithfully promiſe before God, that, to my beſt Power, I ſhall diſcharge all which the Statutes of the ſaid* Hoſpital *require from me; and ſhall do my beſt to ſee all the*

the Statutes of the ſaid Hoſpital *obſerved by others, whom they do concern, and do promiſe faithful Obedience to the preſent Governors of the ſaid* Hoſpital, *and their Succeſſors in Office.* So help me GOD. After which ſhe is to get Poſſeſſion of the Miſtreſs's Lodgings, by ſome of the Governors, and publickly, in Preſence of the Children and Servants, declared Miſtreſs and Governeſs; and they commanded to give her all Obedience, under the Pain of being expelled from the *Hoſpital*; ſhe is to have her Dyet at a Table croſs at the Head of the other, and ſhall not be any Night out of the *Hoſpital* without the Leave of two at leaſt of the Governors, and ſhall have a Care to ſee the whole Chambers and Office-houſes kept clean and neat; If ſhe marry, her Place thereby ſhall become void, or if ſhe be convicted of any Scandal before the Governors, ſhe

ſhall

ſhall be depoſed ; if at any Time ſhe be found remiſs and negligent, ſhe is to be publickly admoniſhed thereof by the Governors, which Admonition is to be regiſtrate, and if thereafter ſhe offend in like Manner, ſhe is to be depoſed; and if through Infirmity or old Age ſhe become uncapable to exerce the Office, which is to be cognoſced by the Governors, ſhe is to be reſpectfully diſmiſſed ; but if ſhe have ſerved above ten Years, and not able to maintain herſelf, ſhe is to be allowed Lodging and Maintenance in the *Hoſpital* during her Life, if ſhe pleaſe to accept thereof. In caſe of her Depoſition, Death or Demiſſion, the Governors are to proceed to the Election of a new Miſtreſs or Governeſs, within forty Days thereafter ; the Governeſſes ſucceeding to the ſaid *Iſabella Grant*, are to receive quarterly from the Treaſurer the Sum of

XI. The

XI.

The preſent Governors have already elected and ſettled *Iſabel Forbes* Daughter to the ſaid *Francis Forbes* Gentleman to be School-miſtreſs, who is to continue in that Station during her Life and good Behaviour, whoſe Office and her Succeſſors ſhall be to teach the Children to read, work Stockings, Lace, coloured and white Seam, Spinning, Carding, Waſhing and Dreſſing of Linnens, Dreſſing of Meat, Cleaning of Houſe, and all Sort of Needlework, and other ordinary Houſe-hold Thrift; and if they can, to teach the Girls alſo Writing, Arithmetick, and the common Parts of vocal Muſick; And if Women cannot be found to teach the whole Arts and Virtues above mentioned, then the Governors are to provide an honeſt Man for ſome Part thereof,

The Election of the School-miſtreſs.

thereof, to come to the *Hoſpital* at ſuch Hours as ſhall be appointed and thought convenient, who is to be ſatisfied for his Pains by the Treaſurer. For the School-miſtreſſes their Qualities of Life, good Report, *&c.* and for the Manner of their Election, Admiſſion, Admonition, Depoſition, and Election of a new one in their Place; it ſhall in all Points be obſerved, as is expreſſed in the Rules which concern the Governeſs; they muſt be unmarried, and each of them ſhall receive from the Treaſurer quarterly the Sum of

XII.

The Governors to judge the Treaſurer, *&c.*

The Governors for the Time, ſhall have Power to cognoſce and judge any Tranſgreſſion and Fault committed by the Treaſurer, Clerk, Governeſs, and School-miſtreſs, and conſider whether the

the ſame merits Deprivation or not, and determine accordingly.

XIII.

There ſhall be choſen a Woman of good and honeſt Report, to be Cook to the *Hoſpital*; ſhe ſhall be charged with the clean and exact dreſſing of the Victuals, two or three of the Children who are educate in the *Hoſpital*, ſhall be Time about appointed by the Miſtreſs to be preſent, and aſſiſt at the Dreſſing of the Victuals, that they may learn to handle Meat neatly; ſhe ſhall have the Keeping of all Utenſils belonging to the Kitchen delivered to her by Inventary; ſhe ſhall deliver up her Accompts for Bread, Drink, Candle, and other Things belonging to her Charge to the Miſtreſs weekly, or as oft as ſhe ſhall be required; ſhe ſhall be choſen in Manner foreſaid, and continue during Pleaſure allennarly; ſhe ſhall receive The Election of the Cook.

from the Treaſurer quarterly the Sum of
for her Wages; and as to the reſt of the Servants that may be needful for the ſaid *Hoſpital*, it is left to the Governors Diſcretion to provide ſuch, and give them ſuch Allowances as they ſhall think fit.

XIV.

The Girls to be preſented.

There ſhall be choſen and admitted into the ſaid *Hoſpital*, ſo many Children, as the Revenue of the ſaid *Hoſpital* ſhall be able to maintain, *deductis deducendis*. And theſe Girls preſented by the Incorporations, are to be the Children or Grand-children of the Freemen Crafts-men of their own Incorporations, which failing, any other they pleaſe, of whoſe Poverty and Need of the Help of the *Hoſpital*, the Incorporation, who preſents them, are to be Judges; but the Donators to the *Hoſ-*

Hoſpital, who have Right to preſent, by giving a Donation of 2000 *Merks*, may preſent any Girl they think fit, whether Crafts-man's Daughter or not; it being made appear to the Governors, or their Committee before mentioned, by a Declaration, under the Hand of the Donator, who hath Right, and preſents a Girl, that ſhe is an Object of Charity; which Declaration ſhall be a ſufficient Inſtruction of her Poverty. (*a*) For each 2000 *Merks* Donation, the Perſon Giver thereof during his or her Life, and after their Death, any they ſhall appoint by Write, hath a Title to preſent a Girl, and as oft as the Preſentation ſhall vaick, they ſhall have the Renewing thereof; and if any two Perſons ſhall jointly give in 2000 *Merks* of their own proper Means, they ſhall have the preſenting of a Child,

(a) *Vide Appendix.* N° 2, *and* N° 5.

Child, *alternis vicibus*, or as they ſhall agree. The Girls to be admitted to the *Hoſpital* muſt be wholeſome and ſound of their Body at their Entry, and capable to learn, and muſt not be under ſeven Years of Age, nor above twelve Years, when they enter; and are to continue in the *Hoſpital* until they be eighteen Years of Age, and no longer, and each of them, at their Entry, muſt be decently apparel'd, at the Sight of the Governors and Treaſurer; and when that Apparel is worn, their Apparel afterwards is to be all of one Piece, without Diſtinction of Perſons, and as plain, as may be, and all of one Colour, and with ſuch Mark as the Governors ſhall appoint; but when they go out of the *Hoſpital* at eighteen Years of Age, they are to be cled in new Apparel diſtinct from what they did wear in the *Hoſpital*, each Girls Apparel not exceeding the Sum of

of an hundred Merks *Scots*, which is to be paid by the Treaſurer. The ordinary Time of receiving in of the Girls, is to be the firſt *Monday* of *November* yearly; when it is to be conſidered by the Governors, what Vacancies there are, and how many the Eſtate and Revenue of the *Hoſpital* is able to maintain, that ſo many qualified, as is before expreſt, be then taken in, who ſhall have a Lodging, Bed, Dyet, Waſhing and common Fires allowed to them, beſide their being educate and taught in Manner aforeſaid; and ſhall be comely and decently apparel'd, both in their Cloaths and Linnens.

XV.

In Reſpect, frequent Loſſes fall out in lending Money, it is enacted and appointed, That no Money belonging to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, be laid out or imployed

The lending of Money.

imployed, but by an Act of the Governors, voted by Way of Billoting; and that either for purchaſing of Land, or lent upon real Security of Land repute free of Incumbrances, or to the Town of *Edinburgh*, on the Town's Security, or to any other three reſponſal Perſons, upon their Bond, bound conjunctly and ſeverally, providing the Sum lent to theſe three Perſons do not exceed five thouſand Merks.

XVI.

Fees and Sallaries. It is hereby declared, That the Blanks for Fees or Sallaries in the foreſaids Rules and Conſtitutions, may be filled up by the Governors, after due Conſideration and Experience of what may be ſuitable to be allowed.

XVII. It

XVII.

It is hereby ordered and appointed, That each Donator's Name and Deſignation ſhall be put up in the Hall of the ſaid *Hoſpital* in Gold Letters, and the Sum mentioned there which they gave in Donation. The Donators Names to be put up in Gold Letters.

XVIII.

That there be a Room, one or more ſet apart for the ſick Children, to be keept ſeparate from the other Children, and that every ſick Child have a Bed by herſelf. A Room for ſick Children.

XIX.

That the Donators who have the Right and Title to preſent upon a Vacancy may have timeous Advertiſement; there ſhall be a Broad affixed upon the principal Entry of the *Hoſpital*, giving Form of advertiſing Vacancies.

Notice to which Perſon the Preſentation falls.

XX.

A Stone Room for the Papers.

It being neceſſary that the Rights, Evidents and other Writes of Importance belonging to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, be kept ſafe, and in good Order; and likeways, when there ſhall be at any Time, through God's Bleſſing, a greater Sum lying *in Specie*, than what is like to be neceſſary for defraying the ordinary Expences, it were hard that that the Treaſurer ſhould be troubled with ſo great a Charge: Therefore, both with Reſpect to the Papers and Money, 'tis recommended to the Governors, with their Conveniency, to order a pended Room in the *Hoſpital*, to be made all Stone, with a good Fire-light, and a Door of Iron, with three different Locks and Keys; one whereof to be kept by the Deacon Conveener

Conveener for the Time, another by the eldeſt Governor of the Name of *Erſkine*, and one by the Treaſurer of the *Hoſpital* for the Time.

XXI.

It is declared, That for the better eſtabliſhing and ordering this good and pious Work, by ſettling the Rules thereof, after due Experience, in the beſt Manner, that the Governors (and all Contributers, if they think fit) are to meet every Year at *Edinburgh* in the Hall of the *Hoſpital*, upon the *ſecond Monday* of *January*, beginning the firſt yearly Meeting upon the *ſecond Monday* of *January*, One Thouſand ſeven Hundred and eight Years. At theſe Meetings, it ſhall be Leiſom to theſe conveened, providing their Number be ſeventeen or more, to reconſider the foreſaids Articles and Rules, and to add there- The annual Meeting.

thereto, and order whatever they find juſt and neceſſary for the Good of the *Hoſpital*, the ſamen being always conſiſtent with the fore-mentioned Rules and Conſtitutions, and particularly theſe in Favours of the ſaid *Mary Erſkine*, as they are contained in the fore-mentioned Diſpoſition made by her to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, and theſe Additions and Orders to be determined by the Plurality of Votes of theſe conveened. And it is declared leiſom to all Ladies and other Women, who are, or ſhall be Benefactors to the *Hoſpital*, to have their Proxies in the ſaid yearly Meetings, they always having written Mandats for that Effect.

XXII.

Concluſion. The Articles and Rules before-mentioned and ſet down, conſiſting of eight Pages in the principal ſubſcribed Rules, each

Page thereof being ſigned by *Gilbert Somervel* preſent Deacon Conveener, and Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, are unanimouſly agreed to, and ſettled in Manner foreſaid. We the preſent Governors and Contributers, Subſcribers hereto, bind and oblige us and our Succeſſors, who ſhall be concerned in the *Hoſpital*, to keep and obſerve the ſame faithfully and firmly according to the true Meaning and Intent thereof, *declaring*, That the Perſons, who ſhall afterwards ſubſcribe and contribute for advancing the ſaid good Work, may likewiſe at the ſame Time ſubſcribe to theſe Preſents; and if Need be's, That afterward a Ratification of the foreſaids Rules and Conſtitutions (or as they ſhall be amended) may be procured from the Parliament, which is recommended to the Governors of the *Hoſpital* for the Time,

Time, to ſee done. In Witneſs whereof, we have ſubſcribed theſe Preſents with our Hands, at *Edinburgh* the ninth Day of *September*, One Thouſand ſeven Hundred and ſeven Years.

FINIS.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX.

14th *January*, 1712.

THE Governors and Donators preſent, do all unanimouſly agree to the Alteration of the *Rules* and *Conſtitutions* made by the Governors upon the 30th *January*, 1711; whereby they were of Opinion, that the Treaſurer ſhould be elected yearly on the *third Monday* of *October*, notwithſtanding of any Thing in the *Conſtitutions* to the contrary; in Regard the new nine Governors are to have a Vote in his Election by the *Conſtitutions*, upon the ſecond *Monday* of *October*; and that being the Day they are elected themſelves, it cannot be ſuppoſed they can be preſent that Day to vote for the Treaſurer. 13th *Ja-*

N° 1. Election of the Treaſurer.

13th *January*, 1724.

N° 2. Donators having Power to preſent.

The Governors and Donators preſent, enacted, That in all Time coming no Donator ſhould have the Privilege of preſenting a Girl to the *Hoſpital*, if the ſame be not a Child or Grandchild of a Freeman of the fourteen Incorporations of *Edinburgh*, unleſs the Donator give a Donation of 3000 *Merks*, *Scots* Money; but if it be a Freeman's Child or Grandchild that is to be preſented, the Donator ſhall have Right for a Donation of 2500 *Merks Scots*; declaring, that any Perſon that is already or ſhall be a Donator to this *Hoſpital*, ſhall have the Privilege in the above Terms to preſent a Girl, upon their making up their Donations to the reſpective Sums of 2500 or 3000 *Merks Scots* in the foreſaid Events.

19th *Ja-*

19th *January*, 1727. N° 3. The 28 Governors.

The Governors and Donators preſent having it repreſented to them by the Society of Barbers in *Edinburgh*, that conform to a Decreet of the Lords of Council and Seſſion, dated 3*d* *February*, 1722; the Barbers are obliged to relieve the Surgeons of the Maintenance of two of the four Girls, to which the Surgeons have a Right of Preſentation in this *Hoſpital*; and the Barbers having accordingly granted Security to the Governors of the *Hoſpital*, for the Maintenance of the ſaids two Girls, craved they might have a Share of the Government of the ſaid *Hoſpital*, or at leaſt, that one of their Number ſhould, in all Time coming, be yearly elected one of nine additional Governors, or in any other Way, as ſhall appear moſt reaſonable to the Governors: The Governors and Donators are of Opinion, that a-

greeable to Powers veſted in them (by Rule 21ſt) to reconſider the Articles or Rules of the *Hoſpital*, and add thereto, and order whatever they find juſt and neceſſary for the Good of the *Hoſpital*, under the Limitations therein mentioned; they may warrantably declare, That, in all Time coming, while the Barbers continue in the Maintenance of the foreſaids two Girls, that, in Place of the nine additional Governors, there ſhall be Ten, the Tenth being always elected out of the Society of Barbers, and the Nine freely elected as formerly: So that the Government ſhall henceforward conſiſt of 28 Perſons, *viz.* 14 Deacons, two Trades Counſellors, two of the Name of *Erſkine*, and nine annually elected, and one to be choſen annually out of the Society of Barbers, by the Governors,

11th *January* 1731. N° 4. The Election of the Governeſs annually.

The Governors and Donators by Plurality of Votes enacted, That, in Time coming, the Governeſs and School Miſtreſs of the *Hoſpital* ſhall be elected annually upon the Day of electing the Treaſurer, and to give their Oath conform to the Statutes.

10th *January* 1732. No 5. Privilege of Donators Heirs.

The Governors and Donators preſent, do hereby ſtatute and ordain, conform to the Powers lodged in them, by the 21ſt Article of the Rules, That in Caſe a Donator, that gives ſuch a Sum, as intitles him or her to the Preſentation of a Girl, leave not a Write under his or her Hand, yet the Donator's Heirs ſhould have Right to the Preſentation, notwithſtanding the 14th Article of the Rules and Conſtitutions.

FINIS.